

# VAMC Names Captain Helen Pearlman New Nurse Executive; Plans to Start September 1

After a long national search, it was announced in early May that Captain Helen V. Pearlman, NC, USN, will join Minneapolis VA Medical Center as Nurse Executive. She is expected to assume the role by September 1.

Born in Beloit, Wisconsin, Captain Pearlman spent most of her childhood in Jamestown, New York. A graduate of D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York, she worked three years as a Registered Nurse in the local community. Commissioned in the Nurse Corps in 1982, upon completion of Officers Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island, she reported to her first duty station at Naval Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia.



As a staff nurse, she was assigned first to the officer's surgery ward, then the neurosurgical intensive care unit. In December 1984 she was assigned as the assistant charge nurse, Intensive Care Unit, Naval Hospital Longbeach, in Longbeach, California. In 1987 she transferred to Naval Medical Clinic, Hawaii. She was the Charge Nurse for Ambulatory Care and later, Senior Nurse, at the Branch Medical Clinic, Kaneohe.

In 1991 she was assigned as the Director for Branch Clinics, Naval Medical Clinic, New Orleans, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She had oversight of the clinic at Belle Chasse Air Station, and the East Bank clinic, housed in the Naval Reserve Headquarters Building.

In 1994 she was selected to attend Full Time Duty Under Instruction at Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. Graduating in 1995 with a Master's of Science Degree, she majored in Community Health Nursing, with a focus in Nursing Education. Follow on orders were to the Naval Medical Clinic, Port Hueneme, where she was first Director of Branch Clinics, and later Director of Managed Care.

In 1998 she transferred to Naval Medical Center, San Diego, in Southern California. Assigned first as one of the first Nurse Corps Case Managers, she later became the Head, Utilization Management. Also assigned to the USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) she was the Department Head for 120 surgical beds. In 2001 she transferred to Naval Medical Hospital, Bremerton, Washington. Assigned as the Head of Ambulatory Nursing, she soon transitioned into the role of the Senior Nurse Executive, and Director of Patient Support. Deploying with Fleet Hospital 8 to Rota, Spain, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, she was the Director of Nursing Services for the 250 bed hospital. In 2004 she was selected to be the Executive Officer, Naval Hospital, Naples.

In 2006 she became the Commanding Officer of U. S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy.

Captain Pearlman is married to Howard Pearlman, and has three children, Jessie, Joey, and Paula.